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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/069,580	05/17/2002	Hidetoshi Sugiyama	ASA-1069	3826

24956 7590 09/08/2005

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.
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ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

LEVKOVICH, NATALIA A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1743

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/069,580	SUGIYAMA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Natalia Levkovich	1743	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 June 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendments and remarks dated 06/23/2005 have been acknowledged by the Examiner and entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office Action.
3. The 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection of claim 14 is withdrawn in view of the latest amendments.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection of claims 1, 5-8,10-12 and 15 is withdrawn in view of the latest amendments.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. Claims 1-2, 5-8,10-12 and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Woerner et al. (USP 5,882,174).

Woerner teaches a part loading system comprising a first tray elevator ['supply lifter'-Examiner] lifting unused trays, " to align the uppermost tray with a tray singulator ['rack

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separator' at a 'rack separation station'- Examiner] and a second elevator ['recovery lifter'-Eexaminer] - See the appropriate paragraphs of the 02/23/2005 Office Action.

Woerner does not teach the two lifters being mounted on a movable table, however, Woerner does teach the lifters mounted on the same fixed base / table-(See, for example, Figures 1, 3,4 and 18). Movable supports are well known in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have substituted the fixed table supporting the lifters with the moving table in the modified apparatus of Woerner, in order to provide additional mobility and modularity for the elevator unit.

6. Claims 3 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Woerner et al. (USP 5,882,174) in view of Lemieux et al. (USP 5,392,914) and of Astle (USP 5,827,745).

See the appropriate paragraphs of the 02/23/2005 Office Action.

7. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Woerner et al. (USP 5,882,174) in view of Yonemitsu et al. (USP 6,143,083).

See the appropriate paragraphs of the 02/23/2005 Office Action.

8. Claims 13 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Woerner et al. (USP 5,882,174) in view of Yahiro (USP 6,182,719).

See the appropriate paragraphs of the 02/23/2005 Office Action.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments dated 06/23/2005 have been fully considered but they are moot in view of new grounds of rejection (view paragraph 5 of the instant Office Action).

Conclusion

10. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Natalia Levkovich whose telephone number is 571-272-2462. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8 a.m.-4p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on 571-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



LYLE A. ALEXANDER
PRIMARY EXAMINER